



B.C. Mountaineering Club Newsletter

April 2008.Vol. 86, No. 4

More spring skiing in the Purcells, with North Star Pk. appearing behind the col via which it was ascended.

EVENING SOCIAL MEETINGS

Evening socials are usually held in the ANZA club, upstairs room (corner of 8th Ave. and Ontario, Vancouver) starting at 7:30 p.m. Cookies, tea, and coffee are provided.

Tuesday, 8 April - Entertainment will be a show by Linda Bily on ski touring on Baffin Island.

Tuesday, 13 May - Entertainment will be a show by Peter Gumplinger on a recent DAV (German Alpine Club) - (BCMC) expedition to Mt. Dresden in the Chilko Lake region.



Baffin Island scenery Photo - E. Feller.

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Esther and Martin Kafer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT -	TODD PONZINI	604-408-9617
PAST-PRESIDENT -	DAVID HUGHES	604-980-6484
VICE-PRESIDENT -	DAVID SCANLON	604-572-5051
SECRETARY -	ALICE PURDEY	604-293-2951
	JANE WELLER	604-988-3618
TREASURER -	CRAIG KALNIN	604-787-5396
MEMBERSHIP/MAILING -		
	DERRICK JOHNSTONE	604-505-6250
SOCIALS -	DONNA SCANLON	604-572-5051
	ROBERT WOODHOUSE	604-730-0371
CLIMBING -	ROBERT WOODHOUSE	604-730-0371
	RADMILA JAKSIC	604-602-0468
CABIN/TRAILS -	DAVID SCANLON	604-572-5051
CONSERVATION -	MONIKA BITTEL	604-983-3097
SUMMER CAMP -	ALENA DZUIKOVA	604-708-5385
FMCBC REP -	BRIAN WOOD	604-222-1541
WEBMASTER -	KEVIN SWANSON	604-943-4364
EDITOR -	MICHAEL FELLER	604-270-4050

SAFETY EQUIPMENT -	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462
LIBRARY -	JOAN FORD	604-876-4255

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2674, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3W8

EMAIL ADDRESS: info@bcmc.ca

INTERNET SITE: www.bcmc.ca

CLUB EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

Avalanche transceivers - First day - \$5 per day for members, \$7 for non-members then \$3 per subsequent day .

Snow shovels - \$3 per day.

Avalanche probes - \$3 per day.

VHF radios - \$8 per day, \$40 per week

Satellite phone - \$60 per week or \$10 per day plus \$300 refundable deposit, all payable in advance, then \$2 per minute use.

If the phone is returned damaged, the renter will be responsible for repair costs. If the phone is lost or damaged beyond repair, the renter will be responsible for reimbursing the club the \$2000 cost of the phone. Trip organizers should request a deposit from trip participants to cover this cost.

First priority for equipment rental is club camps and trips.

Equipment is rented from Kit Griffin at 604-736-8462, who should be contacted at least 2 days prior to the day the equipment is wanted, except for the satellite phone, which should be arranged at least 2 weeks prior to the day it is wanted.

The **BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER** is an official publication of the B.C. Mountaineering Club and is published 10 times per year (every month except July and September). All material within this newsletter is copyright © British Columbia Mountaineering Club.

Submissions - of any written, drawn, or photographic material relevant to the B.C. Mountaineering Club are welcome. If possible, submissions should be sent to the editor by email or on a diskette. Please note that images should be at least 60 pixels/cm (150 pixels/inch) for successful printing. Images with a lesser resolution will probably not be printed. Deadline for submissions is the first Tuesday of the month preceding the publication month.

Send submissions to Michael Feller (ph. 604-270-4050, email - feller@interchg.ubc.ca).

Editorial policy - All submitted written material relevant to the B.C. Mountaineering Club will be published unless the club executive decides otherwise. Submitted material may be edited for clarity or brevity, or for consistency with club policies.

Opinions and comments expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the B.C. Mountaineering Club.

Scheduled trips

Participation on club trips is open to any person with adequate skills and experience, subject to the approval of the trip organizer. All non-member participants must sign a disclosure and waiver form relieving the club and all other participants on the trip from any liability. A trip organizer is not a certified guide. The function of the organizer is to organize the trip, ensure that it gets underway, know the access to the area, and know a route or routes on the climb.

It is expected that each person on a club trip has the necessary skills, experience, fitness, and equipment. The organizer may specify certain equipment mandatory for participation in a trip. Any person who attempts to participate in a club trip without such mandatory equipment, may be requested to withdraw from the trip. Each person on a club trip is responsible for his or her own safety and for checking the equipment used. Please be considerate and call the trip organizer more than 1 day prior to the trip.

If you are given a ride, please remember to pay the driver your portion of the car costs. If you decide not to go on a trip for which you have previously registered, please be
2 courteous and inform the trip organizer.

Trip Schedule

April

1: Golden Ears area (hike) B2

Reinhard Fabische 604-462-9638
Hiking or snow climbing in the Lower Fraser valley area.

3-6: Vantage (rock) A5
Neal Beattie 604-669-7847

Rock climbing in sunnier climes.

4-9: Garibaldi park C5
Justin Bennett contact via email
Extended mountaineering to Mt. Garibaldi, Dalton Dome, and other peaks.

5-6: Birkenhead Pk. C3/2523 m
Greg Stoltmann 604-926-6496
Extended skiing near Darcy, NE of Pemberton

5-6: Mt. Rohr B3/2423 m
Evelyn Feller 604-270-4050
Skiing off the Duffey Lake road.

12: Mt. Goetz (snowshoe) C2/2027 m
Alastair Ferries 604-329-1637
Extended snowshoeing in the Chilliwack valley.

12-13: Pelion Mtn. C3/2312 m
Peter Gumplinger 604-733-8264
Extended skiing in the Ashlu valley, just N of Tantalus park.

12-13: The Sphinx C3/2402 m
Philip Kubik 604-266-5873
Extended skiing in Garibaldi park.

12-13: Watersprite Lake area B3
Todd Ponzini 604-408-9617
Skiing south of Garibaldi Park in the Mamquam valley area.

13: Rainbow Lake area B2
Murray Lashmar 604-221-4183

Skiing across the valley from Whistler.
19: Mt. Crickmer (snowshoe) B2/1357 m
Fred Douglas 604-293-2951
Snowshoeing in the Lower Fraser Valley area.

19: Needles traverse (hike) D3/1250 m
Todd Ponzini 604-408-6317
Very extended hiking in Vancouver's North Shore mountains.

26: Mt. Baird (snowshoe) B2/1832 m
Alistair Ferries 640-329-1637
Biking and snowshoeing in the Fraser Canyon area.

26-27: Mt. Marriott C3/2750 m
Darlene Anderson 604-789-8020
Extended skiing off the Duffey Lake road.

26-4 May: Frenchman's Coulee (rock) A5
David Scanlon 604-572-5051
Rock climbing in the sun.

May

3: Cypress Pk. C3/2070 m
Peter Gumplinger 604-733-8264
Skiing on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide.

3-4: Place Glacier area B3
Murray Lashmar 604-221-4183
Skiing east of Pemberton.

3-4: Mt. Baker C3/3286 m
David Hughes 604-980-6484
Skiing Washington's northernmost volcano.

10-June 7 : Mt. McKinley C4/6194 m
Justin Bennett contact by email
Serious mountaineering on North America's highest peak in Alaska.

BCMC Summer mountaineering and rock climbing course programs

The BC Mountaineering Club is pleased to offer club-based, mentor organized climbing programs for new and current members. These programs are offered ONCE per year.

Please visit www.bcmc.ca for an application form and fill out **one form per program** (if you are interested in attending more than one activity). Mail your completed and signed forms to:

Rock climbing - Monica Durigon
Englewood Mews, 88-8701 16th Ave, Burnaby, V3N 5B5.

Mountaineering - Alena Dzijkova
3436 Sophia St., Vancouver, V5V 3T6

If you are not a current member you may include a completed membership form as well (also available at bcmc.ca). Please include cheques for payment made out to the "BC Mountaineering Club". These will not be cashed until the program starts and your place is confirmed.

For further information contact -

Rock climbing programs - Paul Miller & Kit Griffin at climbingprograms@bcmc.ca

Mountaineering - Marcus Dell at mdell@rdhbe.com

Basic Outdoor Top-roping

(maximum 8 participants, cost \$60)

Dates: Eve Tues Apr 17, 1 Day of Apr 21 or 22 (weather dependent)

This program is aimed at those who may have done some indoor gym climbing, and want to try it outside. This program, or an equivalent, is a prerequisite for Essential Rockclimbing. The program will cover - safety, environmental issues, basic equipment, basic climbing skills and techniques, and the elements of top-roping (tying in, belaying, lowering, etc.). It will be a one-day program (plus one planning evening). The program will not cover setting up top-rope anchors, rappelling, or belaying from above.

To participate, you must have a sit harness, rock shoes, a belay device (no figure 8s), two locking karabiners (Ds or ovals), plus one large pear/Münter-biner, and a helmet. (Some items can be rented from area retailers.) Program mentors or the BCMC will provide other needed equipment.

Essential Rockclimbing

(maximum 8 participants, cost \$130)

Dates: Eve Thurs April 29, Weekend of May 3-4

Essential Rockclimbing consists of an evening lecture/practice, and two weekend days at Squamish. At the end of the program, you should be able to set up and use a simple top-rope, rappel, set basic anchors, belay and follow a lead climber.

You must provide rock shoes, a sit harness, a helmet, four locking (Ds or ovals) karabiners, plus one large pear/Münter-biner, a belay device (no figure 8s), and two slings of 7mm accessory cord (1.5 m and 5 m in length). Program mentors and the BCMC will provide other needed equipment.

Prerequisite - Basic Outdoor Top-roping or equivalent. In other words, you are required to be able to "tie-in" to a climbing harness and belay before the program starts.

This program (or equivalent) is a prerequisite for the Mountaineering Program. Fees and schedule do not include Basic Outdoor Top-roping.

Lead Climbing - may not run this year

Mountaineering

(maximum 9 participants, cost \$280)

Dates: Wednesday evenings May 7 and 14, weekends of May 10/11, 24/25, 31/June 1.

Essential Rockclimbing or equivalent is a prerequisite.

This program covers mountain travel and navigation, safety and environmental issues, snow travel, glacier travel, crevasse rescue, self arrest, and ascent of a moderate peak. By the end of the program you should be able safely to undertake most club trips up to the B4 level.

To participate you must -

- be a current member of the BCMC;
- be able to attend all theory and practical sessions comprising the program;
- have solid experience in backcountry hiking and overnight camping;
- have completed the Essential Rock program, or equivalent, and understand basic rockclimbing techniques and ropework;
- have adequate physical fitness;
- be willing and eager to participate in future club activities, including leading club trips and providing mentorship to less experienced members in the future.

Participants must be able and willing to commit to all theory and practical sessions.

Additionally, participants must provide the following:

- All personal backpacking/camping equipment and supplies
- sit harness, belay device and locking karabiner
- ice axe and crampons
- climbing helmet.

Participants must either purchase or have access to the book, "Freedom of the Hills" 6th edition.

The club will provide other needed technical equipment (ropes, pickets, etc.) and two prussiks for each participant.

Please note that members who have joined the club specifically to take this program will be required to join for two consecutive years. This is to encourage new member participants to continue to "give back" to the club, with time and effort in the future. Spaces in the program will be given on a "first come" basis, provided you can provide satisfactory proof of your suitability to participate.

Membership

New Members:

The club welcomes the following new associate members:

Shawn Anderson, Hector Aragon, Melissa Aragon, Donna Chan, Ye Chu, Kevin Cornils, John Duffy, Kristen Elder, Jason Flynn, Jodie Gauthier,

Stephen Gregor, Judit Gyenes, Chris Hood, Joshua Horoshok, Veronica Kacinik, Anton Kaplan, George Kennedy, Dale Littlejohn, Cindy Manchulenko, Greg Mann, David McVea, Max Melchior, David Puddiford, David Robertson, Jase Rollins, Ciarra Saylor, Lisa Thorne, Jim Vercammen, Melanie Wilson, Luke Zegel.

BCMC Club news

Volunteer required to assist responding to emails to the club

The club email address (info@bcmc.ca) is being increasingly used. Our membership chair, Derrick Johnstone, is finding it too much for one person and would appreciate assistance. If you would like to assist Derrick, please contact him at 604-505-6250.

Record attendance at March social evening

The March social featured an excellent presentation by John Baldwin on new and different ski trips in the Coast Mountains. It was watched by a standing-room only crowd of over 180 people - probably a record attendance for any club social evening ever. Our second century is off to a good start.

NEW EDITOR needed

Your editor has finally decided to give someone else a go and intends not to stand for newsletter editor at this year's AGM in November. He would like to stay around for another year, working on special projects, and assisting the new editor. So, if you are interested in assisting the club in this vitally important position, please contact your editor, Michael Feller, at 604-270-4050.

BCMC and the 2008 Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival - still part of the club's centennial

And you thought that the BCMC centennial was over. Not quite yet my fellow members. Some consider that the centennial year only starts on 28 October, 2007 meaning that everything from

then until 28 October, 2008, is the club's centennial year, and the 2008 VIMFF falls into that period. Last year there were 2 club volunteers for each and every evening at three different venues. The club volunteers manned the club display with the bonus being free admission for them. What a deal eh! This year saw the VIMFF expand to having displays and screening of films at 3 different venues all on the same evening for most of the week. This would have required some 40 volunteers for all events and venues. As this was my third year doing the organizing of the club's display at the film fest I knew that was not going to be an option, so I concentrated the club's presence at the Centennial Theatre only. With the opening and closing ceremonies there it only made sense.

The club has had a presence at the film fest as long as I can remember. It gives the Macaree award each year to the winner of the mountain culture winning film. Two years ago, with the director of the show, arrangements were made to expand the club's presence as part of the club's centennial celebrations. A small financial donation was made to the film fest and a slide show put together by Ross Wyborn was shown. Ross did a great job and the club was well represented by it. As well in 2007 the club had a reception in the lobby with snacks and a centennial birthday cake. As we all know, feed someone and they are your friend forever. This year the club did the same again. The food was bought, taken to Ian McGillivray and Jane Weller's house where 5 of us (Jane, Ian, Alena, Donna, and me) sliced and diced for hours; getting the food trays ready to take over to the film fest. Should I mention that no small amount of wine and other spirits were consumed also. It also has to be said that no

fingers were harmed during this operation. Thanks have to be given to Jane and Ian as this was the second year in a row that they have volunteered their home for us to do this.

As the centennial chairperson, one of the things that I had kept to myself the whole time was that my secret target was to get the club's membership to 500 members. It hadn't been that high for a while and I so wanted to achieve that goal! We didn't make it and I was disappointed. But we came close though, topping out at 482 for the year. The club's membership hasn't been that high for a few years so that was very pleasing.

Exposure, exposure, publicity, publicity, was my goal for the centennial year. I wanted to get as much as possible for the club, to try to raise it's image, to get out the word that we are out there to join.

It has been mentioned that spending the money that we did spend at the film fest was superfluous and unnecessary. I disagree. For the \$200 for the reception alone, 5 new memberships more than covered that expense and we had many more new members from that reception alone, and all of the publicity that went along with it. The VIMFF Friday evening was the "Canada BC evening" sponsored by the BCMC in all the brochures,

papers, ads. The club was mentioned as one of the supporters each evening. There were over 250,000 mentions of the club in the media coverage overall.

The volunteers. What would the club be without volunteers? Your executive. The programs. The trips. The courses, camps. And the VIMFF. I was quite overwhelmed at the response last year and again this year. You guys were awesome. All of the evenings were covered. Maybe it was just the free admission. I'd like to think that you all were just so dedicated to the club. Right!

Alena Dzukova, Julia Smith, Claire Oldham, Fred Douglas, Alice Purdey, Barb Kornatowsky, Clarence Kornatowsky, Scott Jutson, Shirley Sutherland, Marg Ellis, and Silvia Bakovic. These were your club volunteers this past year. Shirley Sutherland from the City of North Vancouver's museum even volunteered.

Lots of work but it was worth it. Thanks to all the volunteers. And to everyone else - volunteer, get involved. That has been how the BCMC has endured and thrived for 100 years. Just think of that. Over 100 years!!

Dave Scanlon

BCMC Bondage 101

I had the opportunity a few weeks ago to tie up 5 of the clubs lovelies. Ok, now that I have your attention, we were participating in the BCMC's Wilderness First Aid Course. I've wanted to take this for years but due to other things getting in the way it never happened. This time, the timing was perfect.

Alena Dzukova arranged the course with St. John Ambulance with 8 of us participating. Day 1 had us in the St John building in North Vancouver on Thursday, 10 January. A full evening of video and hands on training, learning, and practising CPR and artificial resuscitation - for adults, children, and infants. How to help someone who is choking. There were the usual "dolls" for us to practise on as well as infant dolls too. All very realistic. And there was homework too! Our instructor gave us the things we had to study. Unbeknownst to us there was to be a test at the end of all this. Alena took some ribbing when we

found this out as she said said nothing about a test. She said that she didn't know about it either. Should we believe her??

Then we went on to Saturday and Sunday. Two full days to be held at Lighthouse Park in West Vancouver. Did I mention that this was to be the "wilderness part" - all outside. With some trepidation we all showed up Saturday morning in our rain gear as the forecast was calling for rain all day each day. It never materialized, thank goodness.

There were some neat videos of people in different situations; getting broken limbs, burns, amputations, bites, stings, fractures of different kinds, all in living color with sound effects. Kool! This is where the tying up "bondage" part came in. We had to take turns being the patient. We covered a lot and the instructor was very good, as was his helper - Andrea. We were given different scenarios to deal with. Some of us were to stay

inside, while the others went outside to become the victims. We then were to go out to treat the injured. There were slivers, amputations, fractures, with the “victims” being found in different kinds of situations and positions, conscious and unconscious. It was great training.

One time I was the victim. I was lying on the ground looking up, supposedly injured when my rescuers came to help me. Part of the procedure is to ask the victim questions regarding medication, what the injuries are, any past history of drugs or past injuries. I painfully answered that there was one past injury. Their faces worriedly looking down at me as I painfully, seriously, looked up at them and said I did have a broken heart once. A slight pause as it sank in, then they laughed and laughed.

The last scenario was for 6 of us to conduct a rescue of two hikers who had been attacked by a bear and transport them to the nearest cabin. One victim had a broken leg and was in shock.

The other unconscious with a probable broken neck. Both were scratched up a lot. We had to use only what we had in our packs and what material there was around us. Hiking poles, foamies, and a rope became a stretcher. A tarp became a carrying board. Climbing slings, scarves, a monopod, all were implemented in the “rescue.” This started about 4 pm with us not getting done until well after dark by headlamp.

Then we were all given our certificates and were done. Then off to a local watering hole for a bite and a burp to celebrate. One other reason that this went so well were the participants. A great bunch to have done this with. My thanks to you guys. The instructors - great! The material covered - awesome. The course - take it!

Participants: To Alena Dzujkova who organized the course - Thanks. Clemence Tatin-Jaleran, Gerry Kollmus, Monika Bittel, Radmila Jaksic, Susan Findlay, James Burge, and David Scanlon (reporter).

Economic growth and threats to our wilderness and their ecosystems: Part 2

In our last (March 2008) newsletter, we highlighted 5 current issues threatening our backcountry wilderness parks, and club activities. Updates on these 5 are –

1. Pinecone Burke park and the Upper Pitt River Independent Power Project (IPP) – At 3 different public meetings most people were strongly opposed to the IPP. The nearest meeting to Vancouver, at Pitt Meadows, was a farce with several hundred people trying to get into or near the meeting room, which had seats for about 50. Eventually the Fire Department shut the meeting down and, after only a few members of the audience had had an opportunity to speak, the raucous crowd was promised another meeting which was held on March 25. This meeting was attended by 1200 people including several MLAs and the NDP leader of the opposition, as well as past politicians, such as Rafe Mair. Liberal MLAs were conspicuous by their absence. The crowd was unanimously opposed to the project and delivered a stern rebuff to the proponents and the Environment Assessment Office. Most speakers focused on a) the impacts of the project on salmon and wildlife, b) privatization of public assets to benefit a few, and c) loss of park lands

to a powerline right of way. Your editor spoke about loss of wilderness and wilderness recreation opportunities and asked the EAO representative why the EAO was incapable of doing a proper environmental assessment due to their inability to consider a) the cumulative impacts of all the projects they approve, and b) wilderness values and recreation. The answer to this question was to send my comments to the EAO! Your editor described the EAO as a big black box from which, regardless of what went in, out came a rubber stamp with “project approved” on it. Most speakers from the public were eloquent and passionate over their concerns.

On March 26, Minister of the Environment Barry Penner decided not to recommend changes to Pinecone Burke Provincial Park under the BC Government’s Park Boundary Adjustment Policy. His decision was based on advice he received from his staff immediately after the massive show of public concern about the project. This does not necessarily mean that the Upper Pitt project is dead. It could well continue through the Environmental Assessment process based on an alternate route for the transmission lines. Further political action will be required to stop this disastrous project.

6. Brohm Ridge to valley bottom ski resort and residential land development (Garibaldi at Squamish, or GAS) - Now, yet another potentially devastating development proposal has re-surfaced via the EAO.

The latest permutation of the Brohm Ridge ski resort has appeared for public comment. The threat to Garibaldi park has intensified for several reasons, one being that the developers refuse to make a commitment not to move into the park because they want to keep future options open. Based on Whistler and Blackcomb, expansion into Garibaldi park would be inevitable, were the resort to be built.

Another reason for the threat is that the Brohm Ridge snowmobilers would be displaced. It is believed that they are negotiating with the developers to get a snowmobile route from Brohm Ridge through the western side of Garibaldi park to Whistler. The GAS developers have also committed themselves to assisting B.C. Parks revise the Garibaldi park management plan. This is really scary.

Several public meetings have been held by the GAS developers, including one in Vancouver in early March. This poorly attended meeting will have the government believing there is little opposition to the project. Present at the meeting were representatives of the EAO, from which GAS needs approval to proceed. Such approval is merely a formality, given that the EAO has not been established to reject development projects. In response to a question from someone in attendance, the EAO indicated that they don't really take into account the extent of public opposition to a project. They apparently believe that all public opposition can be "mitigated". In response to questioning from your editor as to why the EAO cannot conduct proper environmental assessments by considering cumulative impacts of all the projects they approve or by considering wilderness or wilderness recreation values, the pathetic response this time was that they are just following government policy.

A group has been established to try and save Garibaldi park from this environmentally and socially destructive development. A website has been set up – www.savegaribaldi.org. Visit this website, inform yourself, then act – write

a letter to the premier or his ministers. Full details on how to assist, contact information for people to whom letters should be sent, etc., are available on the website.

The following summary was obtained from the website on the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the GAS development:

Project Scope

- 4,901 hectares (Squamish is 11,730 hectares)
- 2 (18 hole) golf courses
- 25 ski lifts
- 5,739 new housing units (22,000 bed units)
- 50,000 sq metres of commercial space

Issues

- **Population increase** – would add more than double the population of Squamish, including visitors (22,000)
- **Urban sprawl** – GAS proposal is completely discordant with Smart Growth principles as outlined in current growth management plans for SLRD and District of Squamish.
- **Greenhouse gas emissions** – huge CO₂ generation in construction and operation, especially servicing of resort and ski visits up to the ridge.
- **Climate change** - It is projected that snow cover in the next 20 years will radically shrink.
- **Loss and fragmentation of wildlife habitat** – Brohm Ridge, Brohm Lake and Cat Lake wildlife areas would be permanently lost due to 5,739 housing units, ski runs, commercial development and golf courses.
- **Integrity of Garibaldi Provincial Park compromised** – construction of ski hill and increased access to the park threatens sensitive ecosystems and wildlife populations such as grizzlies and mountain goats in park area.
- **Golf course chemicals** – fertilizers and pesticides pose serious health risk to humans and wildlife, result in pollution of waterways, and potential drinking water contamination.
- **Air quality concerns** – increased traffic on highway and up to Brohm Ridge; decreased CO₂ absorption from loss of large forested area.
- **Insufficient info on water supply** – no data were collected on stream flow, so the amount and consistency of water availability is therefore

unknown. Lack of water flow data means that the impact on fish further downstream cannot be calculated by Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The GAS proposal does not address how it will get water to the development, or how much the infrastructure to obtain water/sewage systems will cost. According to SLRD water usage data, GAS grossly underestimates water usage per capita (by between 300-2400 liters per day/per person, depending upon peak usage times). According to the DFO, GAS overestimates the amount of water it will be able to draw from Brohm Creek. In the proposal, GAS seeks to create five dams. If these dams prove to be infeasible and permits are denied, how much will it cost to pipe water in from elsewhere?

- **Possible water shortages** – projected per person consumption is unrealistically low; emergency firefighting requirements and dry periods are not accounted for.
- **Fish habitat threatened** – insufficient data to determine impacts of water withdrawal on fish habitat in Brohm and Cheekye Rivers; proposed mitigation measures are inadequate.
- **Waste water effluent released into Cheakamus** – river already at capacity from Whistler effluent and damaged from 2006 CN Rail caustic spill
- **Lack of research** – studies on effects of development on sensitive ecosystems and threatened species are inadequate.

Social & Economic Impact

Brohm Ridge instability -

The GAS proposal does not address the relative instability of Brohm Ridge (Brohm Ridge Linears), and/or what the implications would be for the community should there be a massive landslide (100,000 to 1 million cubic tons of material, according to the environmental assessment done by the government in 1998 for the previous ski hill proponent). The last landslide occurred in 1958, and caused extensive flooding of the Cheakamus River.

Operating costs -

- Due to Brohm Ridge's rough terrain, ground instability, extremely steep grade, and high precipitation, it will cost hundreds of millions of

- dollars to build roads (98 km), lifts (25), and other related infrastructure. The proponent says GAS will pay 300 million, just to get started on the project, but who will pay the cost to maintain this infrastructure over time? How much will it cost to replace it in twenty years, or perhaps sooner due to the area's high risk for landslides and flash flooding? How much extra will it cost to mitigate these special circumstances? The proponent says that GAS will generate 54 million in tax revenue for the district of Squamish. Will this be enough to cover these costs?
- If GAS becomes part of Squamish, Squamish taxpayers will likely be paying for the infrastructure costs over time. Keeping in mind the above-mentioned issues, GAS will likely have massive infrastructure costs.
- The GAS proposal does not properly address where the workers needed to build it will live. Given the current affordable rental unit shortage (the present vacancy rate is less than 1% in Squamish), this is highly problematic.
- The GAS proposal boasts that it will create more jobs for Squamish residents. Most of these jobs (service industry, retail, custodial) are relatively low paying. How will these people afford to live here? Whistler has been struggling with this particular issue for years.
- Given the current labour shortage, both regionally and nationally, how will GAS attract and keep workers? Resorts all over BC, including Whistler, are currently grappling with this issue, and it is expected to get worse as baby-boomers retire and the employee pool shrinks world-wide.
- The GAS proposal, as it currently stands, acknowledges that the resort population will require more hospital beds, school seats, police officers, and fire fighters, than Squamish can afford to accommodate. The proposal identifies that more of these services will be needed, but does not identify who will pay for them....can a second rate ski-hill attract enough tax dollars to pay for itself?

These issues are all in addition to the one of most concern to the BCMC - loss of wilderness and wilderness recreation opportunities associated with the park. Protection of Garibaldi park and wilderness recreation opportunities within it requires letters of opposition to the GAS

development. Inform yourself by visiting www.savegaribaldi.org then email a letter to the following:

Environmental Assessment Office

eaoinfo@gov.bc.ca

Premier Gordon Campbell

premier@gov.bc.ca

West Vancouver - Garibaldi MLA - Joan McIntyre

joan.mcintyre.mla@leg.bc.ca

NDP Leader - Carole James carole@bc.ndp.ca

Green Party - Jane Sterk info@greenparty.bc.ca

Conservative Party - Wilf Hanni

leader@conservativesbc.com

Mayor Ian Sutherland, District of Squamish

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The reason governments, particularly the present BC government, continue to demand perpetual economic growth is because they inherently believe it is a good thing and that it is the only way. That this is not the case has been demonstrated by the collapse of past developing human (see J. Diamond's book "Collapse") and other animal populations. Alternative ideologies and models are desperately needed if we wish to survive, but particularly if we wish our wilderness and its ecosystems to survive. The following article presents just such an alternative perspective. It focuses on ecosystem biodiversity, but one can substitute "wilderness" for "biodiversity" throughout the article. It was written by Neil Dawe and Terri Martin and was published in the Winter 2007 edition of BC Nature, the magazine of BC Nature (Federation of BC Naturalists). It is reprinted with the kind permission of the authors and BC Nature.

Economic growth and conservation. The real problem: our perennial demand for economic growth

Orthodox conservation measures alone are falling short of our expectations. Why? Because they are aimed at only the symptoms of biodiversity loss instead of the root cause: our perennial demand for economic growth.

After all, habitat loss and the resulting biodiversity declines are not occurring spontaneously – they are the result of ecosystem loss or conversion that is facilitated by economic activities such as urbanization, forestry and agricultural practices,

among others – significant sectors in our ever-growing economy. To understand this fully, one must have some appreciation of our conventional economic model and economic growth itself.

Economic growth is an increase in the production and consumption of goods and services and is a function of increasing population and per capita consumption. Thus, it is an increase in throughput, or flow of natural resources, through the economy and back to the environment.

Since everything humanity depends upon comes from the environment, economic growth only occurs when natural capital from the *economy of nature* is appropriated for use by the *human economy* where it is converted to manufactured capital and consumer goods. Because of the tremendous breadth of the niche that humans occupy, the human economy grows at the competitive exclusion of wildlife in the aggregate (Figure 1). This is fundamental to our understanding of the current problem of biodiversity loss.

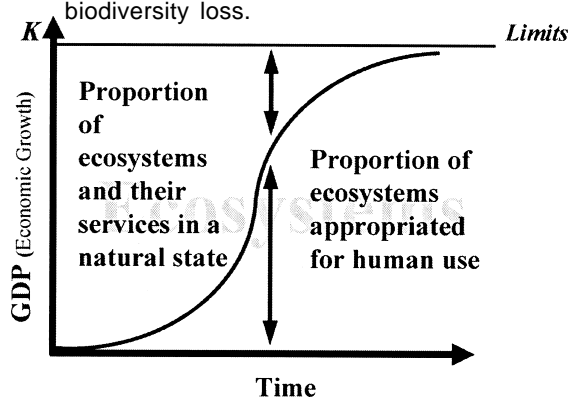


Figure 1. A fundamental conflict between economic growth and biodiversity conservation occurs because as the economy grows over time, it appropriates a greater and greater proportion of natural capital from the economy of nature for use in the human economy. The tremendous breadth of the niche that humans occupy means that the human economy grows at the competitive exclusion of wildlife in the aggregate, thus a steady loss of biodiversity. K is carrying capacity (limits) for the human economy. A steady state economy would maintain the economy sufficiently below the limits so that the areal extent of ecosystems would be adequate to maintain biodiversity and thus allow proper ecosystem functioning. (Adapted from Czech 2000).

When the world was relatively “empty,” the abundance of nature obscured the shortcomings of an economic model that ignored basic principles of physics and ecology. Now, however, the world is “full,” and the 6.6 billion humans are beginning to see the effects of this faulty economic model and feel the pinch of shortages as nature’s stockpile runs ever lower, a result of the continual increase of our per capita consumption.

Studies show that we likely exceeded the carrying capacity of the planet sometime in the mid-1980s. We have been harvesting renewable resources faster than nature can replenish them and are now eating into our natural capital. Further, our wastes are being dumped such that dwindling natural ecosystems are unable to assimilate them. Our pollutants are everywhere. This behaviour is not sustainable.

As conservationists, we can no longer ignore the fact that an economic model based on infinite growth on a finite planet with finite resources – a model with no connectivity to the biosphere – is fatally flawed.

Yet, the conventional or neoclassical economic model, under which much of the global economy operates today, assumes that infinite economic growth on a finite planet is possible; the economy is a perpetual motion machine that can run forever on its own output.

But the flow of economic throughput is not circular. It flows one way from low entropy (useful) resources to high entropy (used-up-ness) waste, according to the Second Law of Thermodynamics. To grow, the economy must take evermore-useful matter and energy from the finite biosphere to produce goods and services; wastes are inevitable byproducts. Thus, the economy cannot function simply by using only its own labour and waste as input.

While mainstream economists may think we can ignore the Second Law of Thermodynamics – perhaps the supreme, physical law of the universe – as Huxley observes: “Facts do not cease to exist just because they are ignored.”

US wildlife biologist Brian Czech has an insightful approach that looks at biodiversity loss using an ecological analogy, where he identifies economic growth as a *limiting factor* to wildlife conservation. Recall that a *limiting factor* is a factor, such as food or water that controls a process, such as

species population size. The key point is that if the limiting factor is not addressed, it doesn’t matter what else you do; the effect you’re after is unlikely to occur.

If economic growth is the limiting factor to biodiversity conservation – and we’re convinced it is – economic growth is what has to be addressed. Otherwise, everything else we do to try and conserve biodiversity will be for naught, as the economy continues to steamroll over more and more ecosystems further reducing biodiversity and the ecosystem services that support all life on the planet. Sadly, addressing symptoms rather than the cause is where most conservationists, including us, have directed their energies.

Even if we continue to address non-limiting factors with extra vigilance, the best of intentions, super technologies and an ever-increasing budget, it is clear that such actions alone will have little effect on biodiversity conservation because they do not address the limiting factor or the cause of the problem.

For example, even when we achieve the ultimate conservation strategy of securing biological habitats through the purchase of important conservation lands, one might ask: how did the funds for the purchase arise? If the funds arose as a result of economic growth, then, by definition, we know that some ecosystem somewhere, along with its attendant biodiversity has already been degraded or lost. As Czech asks, what then have we gained?

Even were it possible to acquire conservation lands through a means separate from economic growth, as long as society’s overall goal is perennial economic growth, that growth will ultimately cave in the political boundaries of those “secured” habitats or pollute them from the outside as is now happening with a number of United States National Wildlife Refuges and our own Wildlife Management Areas.

The real solution: A steady state economy

The solution to this dilemma is to move towards a sustainable economy with a reasonably stabilized population and levels of consumption: a “steady state economy”. Herman Daly and Joshua Farley summarize the concept in their book *Ecological Economics: Principles and Applications*:

“The main idea of a steady-state economy is to maintain constant stocks of wealth and people at levels that are sufficient for a long and good life. The throughput by which these stocks are maintained should be low rather than high, and always within the regenerative and absorptive capabilities of the ecosystem [our emphasis].”

The scale of the economy must also be sufficiently below the ecological limits (Figure 1) so that enough natural ecosystems and biodiversity remain to allow normal ecosystem functioning, which provides the ecosystem services necessary for life on Earth. Biodiversity is humanity's most important insurance policy.

A position statement from BC Nature [or the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC – editor's addition]?

Across North America, an increasing number of professional and conservation organizations have taken a position on the fundamental conflict between economic growth and biodiversity conservation recognizing the disparity between what conventional economists are promising and what's really happening to the biodiversity of the planet. These organizations include the North American Section of the Society for Conservation Biology, the United States Society for Ecological Economics, The Wildlife Society, BC Field Ornithologists and the Lillooet Naturalist Society. A similar position taken by the Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy has been endorsed by 19 organizations and signed by over 1,300 individuals on the internet.

Politicians, too, are now recognizing that without addressing economic growth, efforts to reduce carbon emissions to counter global climate change will be futile. Recently, a group of over 80 British MPs, members of an All-Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group, concluded that although government policies in Britain were lowering carbon emissions, more and more industrial plants resulting from economic growth were swamping the reductions. The group called for the abandonment of the two hundred year old, business-as-usual pursuit of economic growth.

How would BC Nature [FMCBC] adopting such a position statement help? Here is how Czech explains it: *“Imagine ... the effects of such a campaign undertaken by a number of organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund, Sierra Club, American Rivers, and many others big and small, national and international in scope. This is how a conservation movement grows to adulthood ...*

Indeed, a collective position on economic growth ... will empower reform in virtually every relevant venue. Letters to editors, university curricula, government agency briefings, congressional testimony, academic symposia, town hall meetings, books, political platforms, political campaigns—the sky is the limit. Ultimately, ... the global community will acknowledge the fundamental conflict between economic growth and environmental protection. Only then will policy be formulated accordingly, and only then will we truly have environmental protection for the sake of biodiversity, human health, and posterity's economic security. [Our emphasis.]”

Equipment/Gear Notes

More plastic bottles to avoid

Our March and April, 2004, newsletters contained articles detailing some of the health problems associated with different types of water bottles. At that time the scientific consensus appeared to be to avoid plastics numbered 3, 6, and 7, and possibly 1. Since that time, MEC has stopped selling the colourful polycarbonate bottles (no. 7), which leaked an endocrine disrupter – bisphenol – A.

Bottles made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET), labeled no. 1, were thought to break down and release a suspected carcinogen – or DEHA

but the jury was still out. PET is made using antimony trioxide (Sb_2O_3) as a catalyst. Antimony is a contaminant causing acute and chronic health effects in drinking water. Studies suggested that PET bottles used in Canada and Europe leaked antimony, but not to a great extent. A recent U.S. study by Westerhoff et al. published in Water Research, February, 2008, found that antimony leaching occurs dependent on temperature. At a temperature of 18°C, it requires 38 days before the antimony leached exceeds permissible drinking water levels, whereas at a temperature

of 29°, it only requires 1.3 days. Such water bottles (labeled no. 1) are certainly not recommended for warm climates or even if they are to sit in cars or tents on sunny days in cooler climates. The recommended plastics for water bottles are the polyethylenes (nos. 2 and 4) and polypropylene (no. 5).

Meeting of interest - Ron Dart will give a lecture on 'Thomas Merton and mountains: Contemplative Cartographer'
Vancouver Public Library, 17 April, 7.30pm.

Book review

Disaster on Mount Slesse: The Story of Western Canada's Worst Air Disaster (Madeira Park: Caitlin Press, 2007) Betty O'Keefe & Ian Macdonald

The Chilliwack Valley in the Upper Fraser Valley is a well trekked and climbed terrain with rock ramparts and stone citadels raising their time tried heads in all directions. There are more hikes listed in the Chilliwack Valley than any other in *103 Hikes in Southwestern British Columbia* (5th edition). *Scrambles in Southwest British Columbia* walks the extra mile to highlight the many challenging scrambles down the Chilliwack Valley Road. But, on December 9, 1956, black fanged Slesse Mountain in the Chilliwack Valley claimed all the lives (62) of those on Flight 810. *Disaster on Mount Slesse* unfolds this graphic tale and gruesome tragedy in a compelling and most readable manner. The initial chapters prepare the reader for the impending storm, and the following chapters unravel in sobering detail, the deteriorating weather, the driving winds and snow, the lost communication between airplane and airport in Vancouver, and the search and rescue operation that took place in December 1956.

The Introduction, the fast paced twenty-six chapters and the Epilogue recount how and why the rescue operation was finally deserted in the snow deep and wind swept Chilliwack Valley, and how, in the spring of 1957, a climbing expedition in the Slesse area, led by the well known BC mountaineer, Elfrida Pigou, discovered the remains of Trans-Canada Airlines Flight 810. It was not until five months after the crash (May 12 1957) that Pigou was able to find the shattered shards of metal. It was yet another BC mountaineering legend and journalist, Paddy Sherman (with Fips Broda) who trekked to the mountain to uncover in greater detail the victims

claimed by Slesse and make such a story known to the larger world.

Disaster on Mount Slesse has many fine photographs in it, and the combination of text and visual insight make for a read that will not be easily forgotten. O'Keefe and Macdonald, in rare but meticulous journalistic fashion, have brought the horrific air crash to life, and, by way of conclusion, updated the story of the disaster in the final few chapters. There is a discussion on the hard work to get a site preserved and a memorial plaque put up in a couple of locations. Those who have hiked to the upper level of Slesse, where prayer flags still flutter on propeller wings, and the water cascades down the sheer face of Slesse, cannot but ponder the final few minutes of the crash. The Epilogue: Another Mountain Claims Elfrida Pigou, perhaps fittingly so, ponders the fate and death of the woman who discovered the wreck on Slesse.

Disaster on Slesse is a must read for those interested in airline tragedies, the difficulty of winter search and rescue operations and a history of early mountaineering legends in BC and the Chilliwack Valley. Do purchase and read this keeper of a book. You will read it in one sitting, and be more than keen to pass it on to others.

Ron Dart



Slesse Mtn. Photo - D. Johnstone.

Trip reports

Upper Madeley Valley, 9 March, 2008

The small party arose at 5:30 am and ended up being only the 10th car in the 2010 Nordic car park in the Callaghan valley. As a heavy snow shower engulfed us we purchased our \$6.50 “snowshoe passes”, geared up, and set off to navigate the maze of cross country ski trails with the necessary help of a trail map.

Unfortunately most of the cross country ski trails are one way only, which would require an extra 1-2 km of trail skiing, were one to obey all the one-way trails, in order to reach the upper Madeley valley. The ski trail had been set up the Madeley valley logging road only to a point about 2 km from the lake. The cross country trail network, with more planned for next year, is certainly impressive. Cross country skiers have clearly benefited. It was also refreshing to ski on trails that had not been fouled by snowmobiles or trashed by snowshoers.

At the end of the groomed trail on the Madeley road, we continued on, along a road pitted with snowshoe divets and one ski track. Meanwhile the mountains remained in the clouds and light snow fell continuously. Madeley lake appeared and at its far end we headed off into the forest following snowshoe tracks that appeared to go where we wanted to go, firstly into the narrow Ck. valley itself, then into a wide, partly open valley flat, with impressive avalanche slopes holding recent avalanches on our left, and rocky cliffs heading up into the clouds on our right. Beyond this lay a bit of a headwall up which we skied until we decided we were running out of time – we had to be back at the car park before 5 pm when it gets locked.

A late lunch was followed by a much more rapid descent than expected, particularly on the groomed cross country trails, even if an extra km was skied, obeying the one-way signs, and we were back at the car just after 4 pm. We had less than a minute of very pale sun for the entire day. This trip was exploratory, partly to check the skiing potential, which looks reasonable on the map, and partly to see if backcountry skiers had got something in return for losing Sproatt to the snowmobilers. The skiing potential looked

reasonable, given the little we saw through the clouds but we clearly have not gained anything equivalent to Sproatt. A very fit party travelling in excellent snow conditions could get from the car park to Madeley Lake and back in about 3-4 hours (about 13 km). Madeley Lake is about half way horizontally to the nearby peaks, but is only 250 m above the car park in elevation, the peaks being another 700 m above the lake. A very fit party in excellent snow could do this in a long day, getting back to the car park by 5 pm, but an average party travelling in “average” snow conditions probably could not. The Sea-to-Sky LRMP also proposes to ban overnight camping in the Madeley valley, eliminating overnight trips, so again we have lost out.

Participants: Leonie Knaus, Evelyn Feller, and Michael Feller (Organizer and reporter).

A fun weekend in the snow! 18-19 January, 2008

Peter Woodsworth led a group consisting of Melissa, Hector, Taff and Kim on a snowshoeing/winter camping weekend at Suicide Bluffs, Mt. Seymour. Starting early Saturday morning we headed out on awesome snowshoeing conditions with just the perfect mix of powder and crust.

After about an hour and a bit of snowshoeing we arrived at the designated campsite and then got to work! After pitching our tents (just in case) it was time to build our snow structures. On Peter's excellent advice Taff and Kim opted to build a snow cave while Melissa and Hector chose the digaloo (sp?). Meanwhile, Peter got to work on an awesome and impressive kitchen.

After much digging and fine tuning we ended up with a very comfortable kitchen, snow cave and digaloo and spent a very comfortable night under the snow and the stars. Everyone had an awesome time and learned a ton! Thanks to Peter for organizing such a great and informative weekend! The weather and scenery were fantastic and the snow shelters warm and comfortable!
Melissa Aragon (reporter)



Peter and mob having fun in the snow.
Photos - H. Aragon.